

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-5, 7-32, and 34-42 were pending in the application at the time of the Office Action. Objections and rejections will be addressed in the order presented in the Office Action. The Applicant notes that both of boxes 2a and 2b in the Office Action Summary have been checked. The Applicant notes that the PAIR database and the text of the Office Action indicate that the Action is nonfinal, and request early notification if the Action is nonetheless intended to be Final.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 4, 27, 31, and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Cassens, Jr., by Japanese Patent Specification No. JP02-197836, and by Japanese Patent Specification No. 06-194791. Claims 1 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Japanese Patent Specification No. 05-127323 and by Chinese Patent Specification No. 1153593, for the reasons set forth in the previous Office Action. Claims 1, 2, 4, 27, 29, 31, and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Diesso. All of the foregoing claims are canceled herewith, and the rejections are now moot.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Japanese Patent Specification No. 04-170368 for the reasons set forth in the previous Office Action. Claims 1, 4, 14-18, 21, 23, 24, 26-28, 31, and 41-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Martin. All of these claims are canceled herewith, and the rejections are now moot.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 2, 4, 23, 29, 31, and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. All of these claims are canceled herewith, and the rejections are now moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3, 5, 7-13, 30, 32, and 34-40 have been indicated to be allowable. Claims 19-20, 22, and 25 have been indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Such amendments are made herewith, and the Applicant submits that these claims are now allowable.

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Amendment Dated April 20, 2005
Reply to Office Action of January 25, 2005

BCI-169US

Conclusion

For the reasons provided above, the Applicant urges that claims 3, 5, 7-13, 19-20, 22, 25, 30, 32, and 34-40 are now in condition for allowance, and requests early notification to that effect. The Applicant further invites the Examiner to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative, Frank Tise, if it is believed that such contact may expedite prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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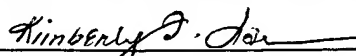
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The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. **18-0350** of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop: Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on: April 20, 2005.



Kimberly N. Lane